



RADIANCE

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January/February 2016

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SACRED WORDS

Regarding the mountain scenery at Minobu, there are Mt. Shichimen in the west, Mt. Tenshigatake in the east, Mt. Minobu in the north and Mt. Takatori in the south. These four mountains are so steep and as high as the heavens that birds can barely fly over them.

- *Shuju Onfurumai Goshō*

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Jan. 1st, 10:30 a.m. (Fri)

Come join us for the first service of the New Year! The special prayers you have submitted will be read at that time to bless you for the upcoming year. If you have not received the form, please contact the temple.

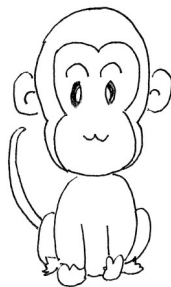
Special New Year *ofudas* will be handed to each family for those in attendance. If you are not able to make the service, they will be mailed out to you.

HOSHIMATSURI / SETSUBUN SERVICE

Feb. 7th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

Setsubun is the eve of spring and also the Lunar New Year's Eve. Those born in the Year of the Monkey will toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative beings and cleanse your soul.

Those born under the sign of Monkey, **2016, 2004, 1992, 1980, 1968, 1956, 1944 and 1932**, please contact the temple since they will wear special *kami-shimo* outfit. Non-members are also welcome. Lucky Beans will be given to all in attendance.



SAKYAMUNI BUDDHA'S NIRVANA ST. NICHIREN'S BIRTHDAY

Feb. 14th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

February 15th is when Sakyamuni Buddha entered Nirvana. February 16th is St. Nichiren's birthday. We are celebrating both occasions to show our appreciation towards them for their unwavering work in teaching the True Dharma, which has now spread all over the world. Let us show our gratitude by chanting the Lotus Sutra and *Odaimoku* together.

CEREMONY TO BURN OLD RELIGIOUS ITEMS AND WHISKS

Feb. 28th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

If you have any old religious items, such as *ofudas* and amulets as well as items from tea ceremony such as tea whisks and scoops, please bring them or mail them to the temple. We will conduct a special ceremony, where burning the items will purify and restore the objects back into the basic five elements. We also ask the spirits to leave the item and return back to the universe. The event will take place in the back parking lot.

Happy New Year!

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

I cannot believe it is already 2016. This time last year I was still in *Aragyo-do* at Hokekyo-ji Temple in Chiba Prefecture, Japan. It feels like many years has passed since I have completed my second tour through *Aragyo*, even though that was only in February 2015. Most likely the cause is the many changes that have occurred with me and my surroundings. It did take a while to "acclimatize" back state-side and get used to American culture.

During the 2015 NONA Dharma Conference, guest speaker Tabata Shonin asked about the meaning of the kanji character for person "人". What does that character look like? It is two sticks leaning and supporting each other. Therefore, a person does not exist alone. There are others who aid, comfort and support each and every one of you. That is the meaning of being a "person".

Since we all rely upon each other, then we should not fight one another, say disparaging words to another and shun one another. By doing so, we remove one of the supporting sticks and we no longer become a person. That means we will start to lose our humanity and lower ourselves into one of the lower realms of the "Ten Worlds".

That is why *gassho* is very important. You take the "eating hand" which is your right, and "dirty hand" which is your left, place them together, so both good and bad are one. We are uniting our nature to show others and especially to the Buddha, St. Nichiren and all the protective deities that we respect them. By showing respect to each other, we begin to create harmony. With harmony, there is no conflict only unity. With unity, we bring forth the Buddha's Pure Land into this Saha World.

If you look at the character again "人" it looks like *gassho*, the coming together of both hands. As a person we are *gassho*, so we must show our respects to everyone, including yourself. If find yourself fighting another, saying disparaging things and shunning others, remember to place your hands in *gassho* and bow to them, saying "I respect you, for you are a person. You are a Buddha".

MAMORI (AMULETS)

Included in this bi-monthly newsletter is a trial gift of one special monthly amulet for January only for those who are not currently subscribing. Recommendation is to place it in a pouch or wallet. Consider this amulet to contain Rev. Kanai's prayers to protect you from harm as well as help awaken you to Buddhahood. Prayers will be refreshed monthly with a new amulet.

If you would like to subscribe, donations are \$5 per amulet per person per month. Rev. Kanai will send you the requested amount monthly. Please contact the temple if you are interested and/or have questions.

My View Point (As I heard and as I see)
Observing Mt. Fuji from the Top of Mt. Shichimen

Kumiko Kanai

I made an appreciation trip to Japan from November 26th to December 10th. We visited Myoken-san in Nose, Shinnyo-ji Temple in Osaka, Kuon-ji Temple at Mt. Minobu and Keishin-in Temple at Mt. Shichimen.

Mt. Shichimen is located next to Mt. Minobu with an elevation of 1,982 meters (6,502 ft). It usually takes about four to five hours to climb from the entrance of the trail to Keishin-in Temple at the top, but it took me seven hours to go up and six hours to come down. The trail is very steep all the way, but this trek is one way of testing one's faith, so I chanted *Odaimoku* every step.

Two priests who took care of the mountain paths cleared the way by sweeping the falling leaves and removing the twigs and branches for the people climb up and down. The clear pathway helped me walk easier after the big wind and snow storm.

After checked into a room, someone told us that we can see the red color Mount Fuji at the observation point, my friend and I put on our jackets and went up to the point and took several beautiful pictures. Facing the sacred mountain, we received venerable power.

One of the purpose to climb the mountain is a part of Buddhist practices to expiate one's sins. It is said that you can experience some spiritual gain by climbing the mountain while chanting *Odaimoku* and that the Deity Shichimen blesses him or her.

Would you like to climb up Mt. Shichimen?



GENERAL MEETING
Jan. 17th, 11:30 a.m. (Sun)

Kannon Temple will hold a General Meeting after service on Jan. 17th. There are several items of importance from headquarters that must be reviewed. Meeting is open to all.

Shodai-gyo (Meditation, Chanting *Odaimoku*, and Mind Concentration)

Rev. Shokai Kanai

The year 2022 is the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Dai'Shonin's birth. Commemorating this happy event, Nichiren Shu is promoting *Shodai-gyo*. Kannon Temple of Nevada held NONA Dharma Conference on November 21st and 22nd inviting a special guest instructor, Rev. Giko Tabata who is a recognized authority.

Zen meditation emphasis is on your mind to be empty, while meditation in *shodai-gyo* emphasizes mind concentration. Why is that? Because this is based on the doctrine of Nichiren's One Deep Thought and Three Thousand Worlds or *Ichinen-sanzon*. In other words, this means one's concentrated thought affects phenomena in the world. For example, if you think, "meditation, chanting or concentration is hard," your life and work become hard. On the contrary, if you think, "I am happy!" or "It is fun!" while you are doing *shodai-gyo*, your life and work become happy and fun in your daily life.

I encourage members and non-members to practice *shodai-gyo* so that they can do at their homes. I emphasize to get universal energy from the top of your head and to get earth energy from the bottom of your soles, so you can be oneness with limitless energy of universe. When people do this kind of *shodai-gyo*, they will become more energetic and have more natural healing.

One more important point during the *shodai-gyo* is how to breathe. On this matter, I need more space to write, so I will explain it next issue.

Using these methods, please practice *shodai-gyo* at your home. Then come to Kannon Temple of Nevada to practice *shodai-gyo* with everyone else. You will notice some positive differences. Public is always invited! Bring a friend!

2016 Memorial Years for the Deceased

Please make reservations for Memorial Service ahead of time.

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|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| First Year | 2015 | 13th Year | 2004 |
| 3rd Year | 2014 | 17th Year | 2000 |
| 7th Year | 2010 | 23rd Year | 1994 |

New Building Fund commemorating the Nichiren's 800th Anniversary of Birth
\$69,952.71

450 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered,
 1,572,000 times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered,
 As of December 23, 2015

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

| <u>January</u> | | <u>February</u> | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 st (Fri)10:30 a.m. | New Year's Day <i>Kito</i> Blessing | 7 th (Sun)10:30 a.m. | <i>Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun</i> |
| 3 rd (Sun)10:30 a.m. | Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing | 14 th (Sun)10:30 a.m. | St. Nichiren's Birthday Service |
| 10 th (Sun)10:30 a.m. | English Service (Chapter 12) | 21 th (Sun)10:30 a.m. | <i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation) |
| 17 th (Sun)10:30a.m. | <i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation) - General Meeting to follow | 28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. | <i>Takiage</i> (Burning Ceremony) |
| 24 th (Sun)10:30 a.m. | <i>Shomyo</i> (Nichiren Shu Liturgy) | | |
| 31 st (Sun) | No Service (5 th Sunday) | | |

• Rev. Shoda Kanai will be traveling to NBIC for NONA Minister's Retreat 2/18~21

*** Those interested in Study Class & Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements ***